

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 BIB-01 PRS-01 PA-02 SSO-00
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O P 171419Z FEB 77
FM AMEMASSY VIENNA
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0849
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
VOA MUNICH PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENNA 1294

ATHENS FOR HOPPER -- STATE FOR EUR/SE AND EUR/CE

USIA FOR IP, IBS, IEU, IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, AU, OVIP (CLIFFORD, CLARK M.)
SUBJECT: CLIFFORD MISSION: INFORMAL REMARKS TO PRESS BY MR. CLIFFORD
FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR BRUNO
KREISKY AT THE AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT BUILDING, VIENNA,
FEBRUARY 17, 1977, AT 11:30 HOURS.

1. FOLLWOING IS UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF INFORMAL REMARKS TO PRESS
BY MR. CLARK CLIFFORD FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH AUSTIRAN CHANCELLOR
KREISKY. SINCE TRANSCRIPT NOT READY BEFORE CLIFFORD DEPARTURE VIENNA,

ATHENS REQUESTED TO CLEAR WITH CLIFFORD PARTY (HOPPER) AND ADVISE
ADDRESSEES.

2. MR. CLIFORD: I BROUGHT TO YOUR CHANCELLOR THE REGARDS AND RESPECT
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OF THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. PRESIDENT CARTER SAID
BEFORE WE LEFT THAT HE HOPED THAT I MIGHT HAVE
THE OPPORTUNITY OF SEEING THE CHANCELLOR AND THAT
WHEN I DID THE FIRST COMMENT I WAS TO MAKE WAS TO EXPRESS TO HIM
AND TO THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRIA THE APPRECIATION OF THE AMERICAN
NATION FOR THE UNIQUE GIFTS THAT AUSTRIA MADE TO THE UNITED STATES
ON THE OCCASION OF OUR BICENTENNIAL. THE THOUGHT OF CREATING A

CHAIR AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY AND ALSO AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA FOR THE CONTINUING STUDY OF AUSTRIAN HISTORY AND AUSTRIAN AFFAIRS CAPTURED THE IMAGINATION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND RECEIVED GREAT PUBLICITY THERE. SO I WISH AGAIN TO EXPRESS TO THIS NATION OUR APPRECIATION FOR THIS UNUSUAL REMEMBRANCE. ALSO I EXPRESSED TO YOUR CHANCELLOR THE FELICITOUS REGARDS OF PRESIDENT CARTER WHO ASKED THAT I TELL HIM AGAIN OF THE REGARD THAT WE HAVE FOR AUSTRIA AND FOR THE LONG HISTORY OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS THAT HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. I EXPLAINED TO THE CHANCELLOR THAT THE PURPOSE OF OUR PRESENT MISSION IS; IT HAS TO DO WITH CYPRUS AND PROBLEMS THAT EXIST IN GREECE AND TURKEY. WE DISCUSSED THAT AT SOME LENGTH, AND THEN WE ALSO DISCUSSED OTHER PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST THAT EXIST BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND THE UNITED STATES. I SHOULD LIKE AGAIN TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANKING THE CHANCELLOR FOR HIS MOST COURTEOUS AND GRACIOUS RECEPTION AND HOPE THAT AT SOME STAGE WE MAY BE ABLE TO REPAY THIS COURTESY WHEN HE VISITS THE UNITED STATES. THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH.

3. QUESTION: NOW THAT YOU HAVE TALKED WITH SECRETARY WALDHEIM AND CHANCELLOR KREISKY, COULD YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC AS TO THE PURPOSES OF YOUR TALKS IN CYPRUS AND THE PURPOSES OF YOUR TALKS IN GREECE AND TURKEY BEYOND THE CYPRUS PROBLEMS?

4. CLIFFORD: YES. THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO BE VERY INTERESTED IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE THROUGHOUT EUROPE AND THROUGHOUT THAT AREA OF THE MEDITERRANEAN INTO WHICH WE ARE NOW GOING TO GO. THE UNITED STATES HAS CERTAIN UNDERSTANDINGS WITH BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY. WE INTEND TO DISCUSS THEM IN SOME DETAIL, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND BECAUSE CYPRUS REMAINS AN UNSOLVED PROBLEM, WE WANT TO GIVE ATTENTION TO THAT. OUR CONCERN IS THAT BECAUSE THERE IS BITTERNESS THERE, BECAUSE THERE HAS BEEN LACK OF A SOLUTION, THAT AT SOME POINT IT MIGHT FLARE UP AND CAUSE TROUBLE IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD, AND WE HAVE LEARNED FROM PAST EXPERIENCE OVER AND OVER AGAIN THAT THAT KIND OF DIFFICULTY SOMETIMES SPREADS AND BECOMES UNMANAGEABLE. SO THAT OUR HOPE IS THAT WE CAN MAKE SOME CONTRIBUTION TO THE SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS OF CYPRUS. WE HAVE HAD A LENGTHY CONFERENCE THIS MORNING WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UN AND DISCUSSED IN DETAIL THE PROGRESS THAT HE HAS MADE, WE HAVE INDICATED THAT WE WISH TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO HIM IN THE CARRYING OUT OF THIS FUNCTION. THIS IS THE BASIS OF OUR INTEREST. THERE IS NO SECRET OR CONCEALED MOTIVE BEHIND OUR VISIT. IT IS THE CONTINUING EFFORT OF THE UNITED STATES TO ATTEMPT TO DO WHATEVER IT CAN IN ITS POWER TO MAINTAIN PEACE IN THE WORLD.

5. QUESTION: MR. WALDHEIM INDICATED IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE EXPECTS A SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS QUESTION BY THE END OF

THE YEAR. NOW THERE WILL BE TALKS IN VIENNA IN MARCH. WOULD YOU COMMENT ON THAT? ARE YOU OPTIMISTIC?

6. CLIFFORD: ONE WOULD HOPE THAT THE PREDICTION IS CORRECT. THE PARTIES HAVE LONG STANDING HISTORY OF MANY, MANY DIFFERENCES OF OPINION. THERE HAS BEEN A BREAKTHROUGH. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THIRTEEN YEARS A DIALOGUE HAS STARTED BETWEEN THE GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS WISELY GRASPED THAT OPPORTUNITY AND HAS CONTINUED THE PARTIES IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP. THE LAST MEETING BROUGHT FORTH SOME PROGRESS IN THE STATEMENT OF CERTAIN PRINCIPLES OF AGREEMENT. THEY ARE TO MEET AGAIN AT THE END OF MARCH. I WOULD HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE OVER BY THE END OF THE YEAR. I CANNOT SAY. POSSIBLY THAT MIGHT BE TOO OPTIMISTIC BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEMS THAT HAVE EXISTED FOR SO LONG ON CYPRUS. BUT IF WE HAVE MOVEMENT, AND IF THERE IS GOOD WILL SHOWN BY THE PARTIES AND IF THE COUNTRIES OF GREECE AND TURKEY WILL MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE

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ULTIMATE SOLUTION THEN WE WILL OBTAIN IT, HOPEFULLY THIS YEAR, BUT POSSIBLY IF NOT, THEN NEXT YEAR.

7. QUESTION: WILL THERE BE ANY DIFFERENCE IN THE APPROACH OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED NATIONS TO THIS PROBLEM?

8. CLIFFORD: THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE WHATSOEVER IN THE APPROACH, THE FACT IS I TOLD THE SECRETARY GENERAL THAT WE WERE SO PLEASED

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O P 171119Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0850

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USIA FOR IPS/IBS, IEU, IOP/M

TO HAVE HIM AND THE UNITED STATES TAKE THE LEAD IN THE ATTEMPTED SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. OUR HOPES ARE THAT BY OUR EFFORTS WE CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE TO HIM IN HAVING THE UNITED NATIONS BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS HIS PERHAPS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY AND THAT OUR POSTURE IN THE AFFAIR IS ONE OF BEING OF ASSISTANCE TO HIM.

9. HOW DO YOU SEE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND GREECE AND TURKEY, BECAUSE THERE HAVE BEEN PROBLEMS IN THE PAST?

10. MR. CLIFFORD: WE HAD A LONG HISTORY OF VERY FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIPS. IT SO HAPPENS THAT I FROM A PERSONAL NOTE, I WAS SERVING AS AN ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT TRUMAN IN 1947 WHEN HE UNCLASSIFIED

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ENUNCIATED WHAT HAS BECOME KNOWN AS THE TRUMAN DOCTRINE, WHICH AT THAT TIME WAS SO WELL RECEIVED IN THE WORLD BECAUSE HE ENUNCIATED THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS GOING TO TAKE ACTIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT THE INCREASE OF AGGRESSIVE COMMUNISM IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD. THE TRUMAN DOCTRINE AT THAT TIME ALSO RESULTED IN SUBSTANTIAL AID BEING EXTENDED TO GREECE AND TURKEY. SO THAT PERHAPS IT IS QUITE APPROPRIATE THAT SOME 30 YEARS LATER THE UNITED STATES IS NOW AGAIN APPROACHING GREECE AND TURKEY ON THE SAME FRIENDLY BASIS THAT EXISTED THEN. WE HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF WARM FRIENDSHIP. WE HAVE A NUMBER OF MATTERS TO DISCUSS. WE ARE NATO PARTNERS. GREECE AND TURKEY CONSTITUTE A SOUTHERN ANCHOR OF THE NATO DEFENSE LINE IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS A CONTINUING INTEREST. SO WE WILL DISCUSS DEFENSE MATTERS; WE WILL DISCUSS BASE MATTERS. WE WILL DISCUSS QUITE A LONG LIST OF ITEMS THAT ARE OF MUTUAL INTEREST. NO DIFFICULTY EXISTS BETWEEN OUR RELATIONSHIPS AT THIS TIME WITH EITHER OF THE COUNTRIES. THIS IS MERELY AN EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT THE SOLUTION OF THOSE MATTERS WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BRING STABILITY TO THE AREA AND AS A RESULT PEACE THROUGHOUT ALL EUROPE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR CORDIAL RECEPTION. BUCHANAN

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